

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES MAJOR MOTION PICTURE TO FILM IN N.C.
Movie Will Star Oscar Winners George Clooney and Renee Zellweger

RALEIGH - Gov. Mike Easley today announced that Universal Pictures will film portions of a new motion picture in North Carolina starring George Clooney and Renee Zellweger. Production for *Leatherheads* is expected to begin in early 2007.

"Universal Pictures decision to include North Carolina filming locations in this movie is a testament to the growing strength of our motion picture industry," Easley said. "As a leading state for film, television and commercial production, companies know they will find the skilled workers and the business-friendly climate needed to make their projects a success."

A number of sites are being considered for the filming of *Leatherheads*, including Winston-Salem, Greensboro, Statesville and Salisbury. Clooney will also direct and co-script the film, a romantic comedy about a ragtag professional football league in the 1920s. Grant Heslov and Casey Silver are the producers.

North Carolina's film incentives statute allows a production company that spends at least \$250,000 in the state to receive a tax credit equal to 15 percent for all the goods, services and labor it purchases in North Carolina.

Partnering with the North Carolina Department of Commerce and the North Carolina Film Office on this project were the Piedmont Triad Film Commission and the Charlotte Regional Film Commission.

Recent productions in North Carolina include *Talladega Nights* a No.1 box office hit, which filmed in Charlotte and Rockingham, as well as the hit television series *One Tree Hill*, now in its fourth season, which is shot at Screen Gem Studios in Wilmington.

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